

## Survivor Leesha Rose on Inquiring about an Illegal Resistance Movement

Leesha Rose was brought up in The Netherlands. She was a teenager when the war broke out and later played an important role in the Resistance Movement. In her book, she describes the hardships of the Dutch Jews in the war, as well as the activities of the Resistance Movement.

One day, my fellow nurse and friend Marge, told me that her parents and sisters had gone into hiding and swore me to absolute secrecy. I asked her: “With whom do you make contact to go into hiding? (In Dutch it is called *onderduiken*, literally, to dive under).

Marge answered:

“One has to make connections with an illegal Resistance organization which is fighting against the Nazis in secret and underground ways. The members of this organization act and behave like normal citizens. One of their activities in their battle against the Germans is to bring Jewish people secretly to non-Jewish homes in different parts of The Netherlands where they are hidden, and cared for so that they can avoid death in concentration camps. The Underground provides them with false identity cards stolen from the distribution offices with which they can provide food for the people in hiding. The underground workers act as contacts for the people in hiding. They lead very dangerous lives for if they are discovered in their illegal work, then are deported to the dreaded concentration camp in Mauthausen”.

This was exactly the information I needed for my parents and my brothers. Marge promised to make contact for me with the Underground in order to have my family placed in hiding with Dutch Gentiles and provided with the necessary false identity papers.

Source: Leesha Rose, *The Tulips are Red*, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem 1978,  
p. 85.